MICHIGAN
ANOMALY
RESEARCH

Report on Current Research

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Vol. 1, No. 1 Summer 1979 ©1979 by MAR

Michigan Anomaly Research & a new approach to UFOs

John Keel, the American writer on unusual phenomena, has repeatedly pointed out in his many articles and books that UFOs and other Forteana appear to favor certain geographical locations. These areas, which Keel calls "window" sectors, appear to operate as base areas for phenomenal manifestations.[1] He notes that UFOs and other unconventional phenomena appear in window areas year after year, and that windows seem to be connected with seismic fault lines and points of magnetic deviation. In other words, Keel is saying that UFOs and other oddities seem to be related to areas of geophysical anomaly.

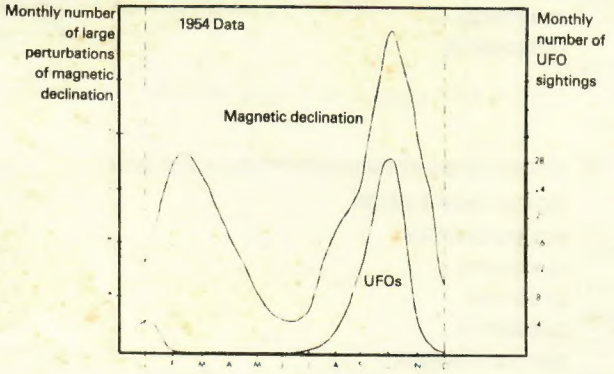
Information which supports this basic observation has been gathered by researchers around the world.

For example, in 1954 the country of France experienced a massive wave of UFO reports. In all, over 200 reports of UFO landings from that particular 'flap' have been collected, many of which include accounts of UFO occupants. Perhaps the most interesting detail, however, is that 40% of all landings were reported to have occurred directly over or in the immediate vicinity of seismic fault lines.[2] Furthermore, researcher Claude Poher, using data obtained from a French geophysical observatory, discovered that UFO activity from the period showed a quantitative relationship to geomagnetic storm intensity, as is seen in Figure 1.

In Spain, data collected from the 1968 wave of UFO activity shows a similar trend. As the reader can see, a close relationship appears to exist between fault lines, magnetic anomalies, and UFO activity. (Figure 2.)

Michael A. Persinger and Gyslaine F. Lafreniere, two Canadian research scientists, computerized over 6,000 reports of Fortean phenomena. Their discoveries, outlined in **Space-Time Transients and Unusual Events** (Nelson-Hall, 1977), provide the strongest support yet for the "geophysical connection." Beside demonstrating that Forteana cluster around fault areas in the United States, Persinger and Lafreniere discuss various mechanisms through which the phenomena may be created. Drawing upon recent discoveries in the realm of geophysics, they conclude that UFOs and other unusual phenomena are connected with large-scale electromagnetic fields that occasionally build up in certain areas of geophysical anomaly.

One likely candidate for electrical field production is a little known phenomenon that was discovered in 1881: the piezoelectric effect. It is based on the observation that if one presses certain types of quartz crystals together immense voltages are created. Furthermore, there is a



Researchers theorize that large-scale magnetic storms electrically charge magnetic variation anomalies and precipitate geophysical activity in fault zones. The figure above shows the distinct correlation between magnetic storm conditions and UFO landings in France during the 1954 humanoid wave. It is interesting to note that 40% of these Type-I UFO events occurred on or within the immediate vicinity of known seismic fault lines during the magnetically disturbed period. (From C. Poher, "Time Correlations Between Geomagnetic Disturbances and Eye-Witness Accounts of UFOs," Flying Saucer Review, Vol. 20, No. 1.)

Figure 1

growing body of data to suggest that seismic pressure on quartz bearing rocks in the vicinity of fault lines contributes directly to the production of Fortean phenomena. For example, Vestigia, a New Jersey Fortean investigations group, besides actually monitoring an unusual 'Mystery Light' claims to have discovered a positive relationship between phenomena of this type and the location of seismic fault lines.[3]

Another mechanism possibly contributing to the generation of electrical fields in window sectors is the magnetic variation anomaly; it is described in Figure 3. For a more complete discussion of the various mechanisms involved, the reader is referred to **Space-Time Transients.**

Also of interest, in regard to the geophysical hypothesis, is the outcome of a study conducted by Michigan Anomaly Research. The results, which are illustrated in Figure 4, show a general relationship between the distribution of Mystery Animals and fault areas in the United States.

In summary, the geophysical hypothesis states that Fortean phenomena appear to be inherently connected with areas of geophysical anomaly. At certain times, due to a variety of interrelated factors, powerful electromagnetic fields are produced in such areas which, according to the theory, could affect the local environment in any number of ways. These fields, representing formidible electrical potentials, might produce plasmas, unusual light flashes, and strange odors. A growing body of information suggests that such fields might induce quasi-hallucinatory experiences in nearby percipients, and Persinger and Lafreniere even speculate that the electrical activity might create anomalies in the local space-time fabric, thus 'opening the window' for teleportation effects, rains of fishes and frogs, as well as other 'bleedthrough' phenomena.

Of course, if the geophysical interpretation is correct, it is likely that a variety of processes are at work. **The most important fact, however, is that the geophysical hypothesis, besides having a strong foundation in available data, can now be experimentally tested.**

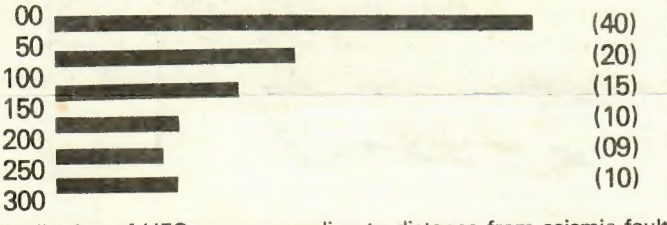
A NEW APPROACH TO UFO RESEARCH

Michigan Anomaly Research was formed in 1974 to empirically test John Keel's window hypothesis, using the state of Michigan as a laboratory. Working in cooperation with researchers around the country, a search was instigated for all available Michigan reports. With the help of a UFOCAT computer printout, provided by Dr. Hynek's Center for UFO Studies, a Michigan catalog was then produced, along with detailed maps showing the distribution of reports and report types. The actual entries, which encompass a wide range of Fortean phenomena, include the following:

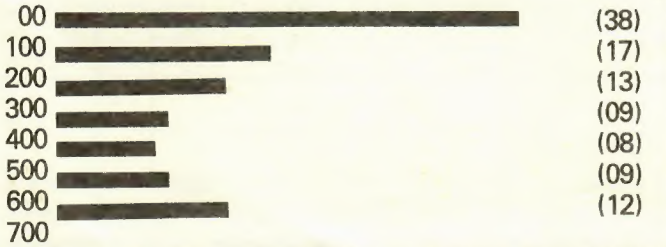
- ★ UFO overflights and landings
- ★ Mystery Animals
- ★ Sky flashes, detonations, and unusual glows
- ★ Falls of animals and substances from the sky
- ★ Spontaneous human combustion
- ★ And other types of unexplained phenomena

Correlative studies in terms of report

Analysis of the 1968 Spanish UFO Wave



Distribution of UFO cases according to distance from seismic fault lines.

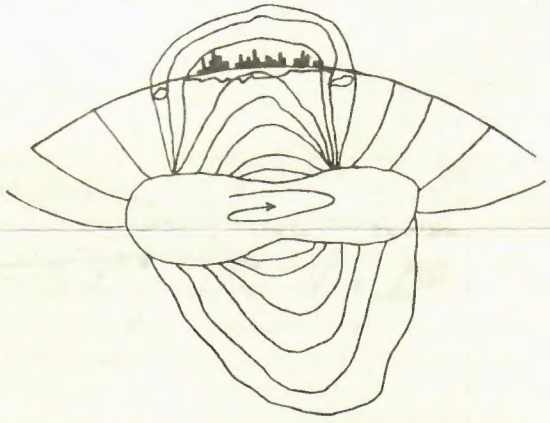


Distribution of UFO cases according to distance from magnetic anomalies.

NB: Distance is in kilometers

(SOURCE: "Conclusions of the Statistical Analysis of the UFO Wave During 1968-69," Data Net #68)

Figure 2

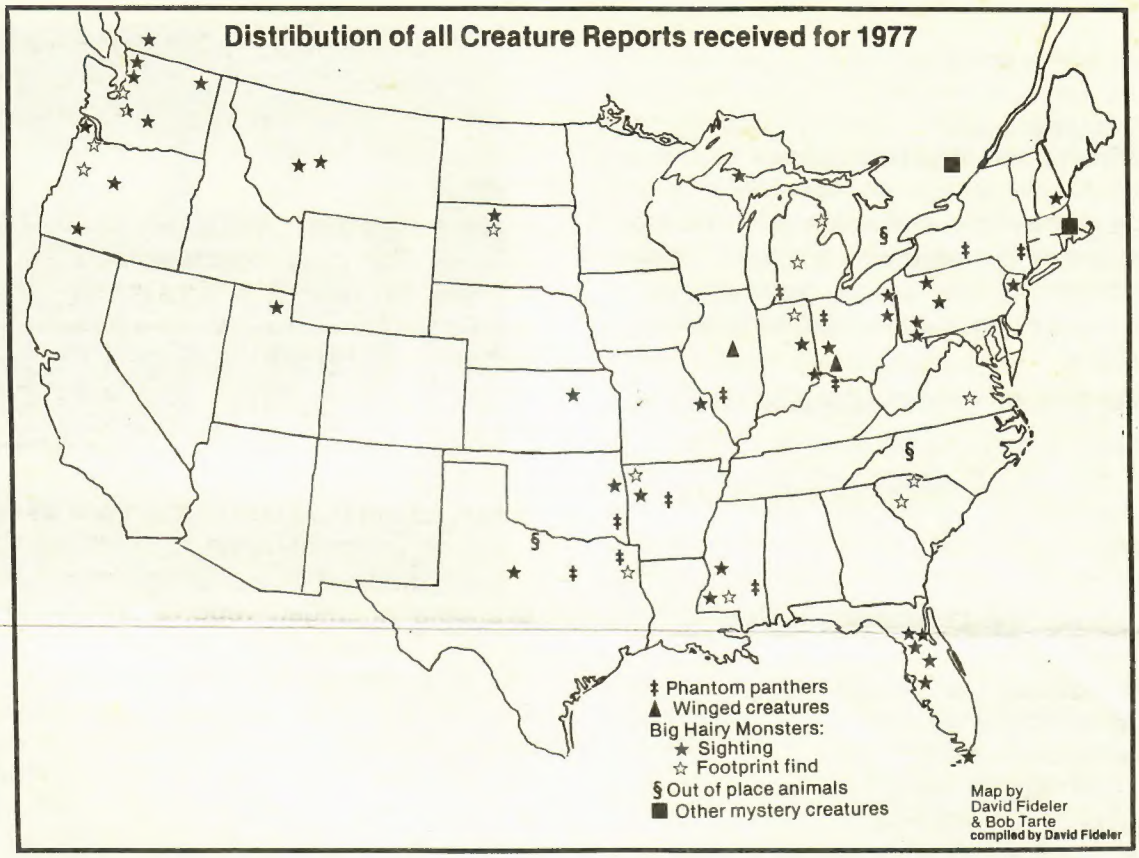


MAGNETIC VARIATION ANOMALIES

Within their book "Space-Time Transients and Unusual Events," Persinger and Lafreniere discuss several possible mechanisms through which large-scale electromagnetic fields may be generated in "window" areas. One of these, the magnetic variation anomaly, is pictured above.

A magnetic variation anomaly is a body of highly conductive material located beneath the earth's surface, which is surrounded by a resistive material. During geomagnetic storms (caused by unusual solar activity), the magnetic variation anomaly, which is usually inactive, becomes charged with an electrical field in the fashion of a huge bar magnet. Smaller conductive regions, located near the surface of the earth, have the propensity to further define and focus the enormous electrical potential into smaller, localized areas. The outcome is the production of intense and transient electromagnetic fields at ground surface. It is assumed that surface features such as automobiles, railroad tracks, and power lines would continue to further define the field. (After M. A. Persinger.)

Figure 3



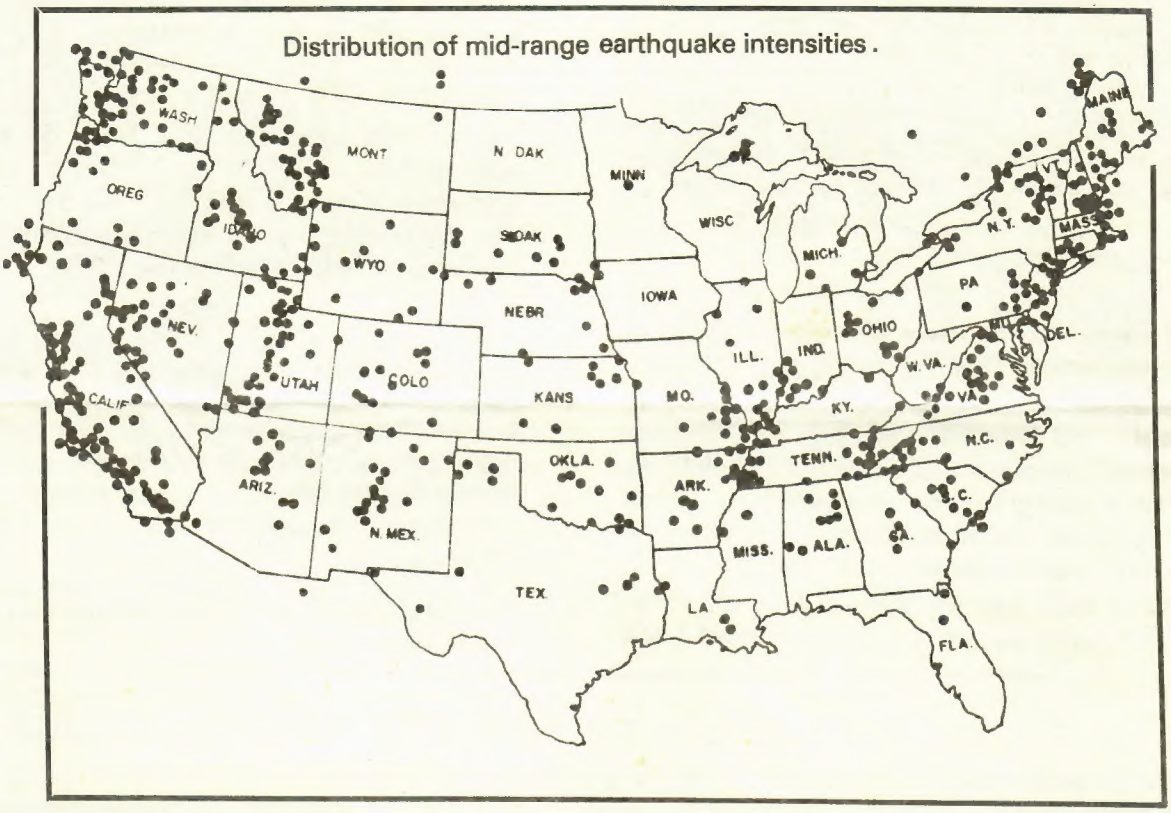


Figure 4. Top map shows the distribution of all 'creature' reports received for the year 1977 by Michigan Anomaly Research. As the reader can see, there is an interesting correlation between report density and the distribution of mid-range earthquake intensities in the United States. The only surprising feature is the absence of 'Bigfoot' reports from California, as the San Andreas fault region has been a major focal point for Mystery Animals and UFOs in recent and historical times.

distribution have achieved what can only be described as very encouraging results. Potential "window" areas, which have consistently produced reports for over 100 years, have been located, and future issues of the REPORT will carry maps and diagrams of these areas. The most interesting part of the research program, now in its initial stages, is the actual deployment of specialized monitoring instruments to suspected window sectors.

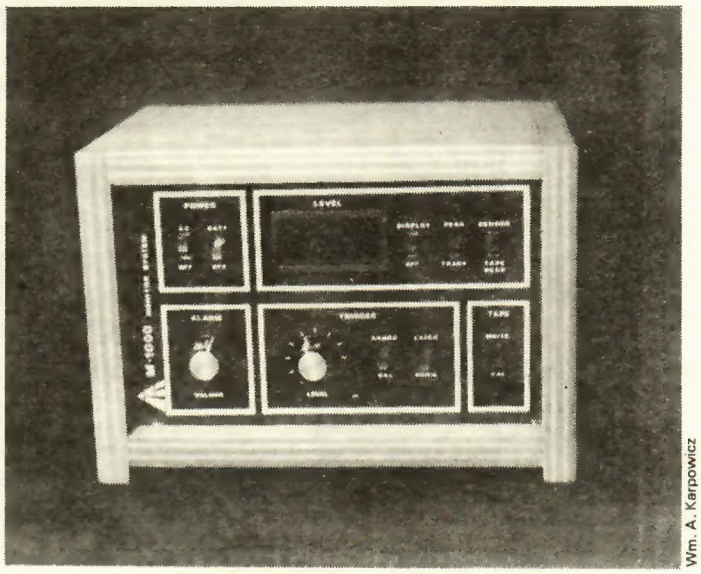
MAR AND THE M-1000 MAGNETOMETER

For the past several years a simple magnetic variometer has been employed by Michigan Anomaly Research to detect and monitor geomagnetic storms as well as anomalous magnetic fields. Unfortunately, the device is not readily portable, and is presently incapable of making permanent records for later analysis.

It became obvious that a more flexible system would have to be employed for in-the-field experimentation and data retrieval.

The M-1000 Magnetometer System, now employed by MAR, is specifically designed for the unattended or remote monitoring of signals whose anticipated amplitude is unknown.[4] When used with the companion preamplifier, the system can automatically resolve signals over a 100,000,000 to 1 range by means of a proprietary range compression circuit that eliminates the need for manual switching. In addition, the system features a tape recorder modulator/demodulator which converts any type of tape recorder into an FM instrumentation recorder for storage of DC and low frequency data.

Other capabilities include an adjustable latching trigger circuit that controls a built-in alarm and two relays. The digital display of the M-1000 employs special digital memory circuitry to allow capture and indefinite storage of the peak magnetic level encountered during a monitoring interval. The reading will be retained as long as power is supplied, with no drop or drift as in conventional peak-responding meters. Finally, tape recorded data can be analyzed by chart recorder or oscilloscope, or it may be played back through the system's digital readout.



Wm. A. Karpowicz

The M-1000 Magnetometer

CONCLUSION

Michigan Anomaly Research does not maintain that unusual phenomena can be entirely understood within the framework of geophysics; indeed, the UFO phenomenon alone demonstrates a complexity that my transcend the limits of orthodox science. However, in view of the data summarized in this publication, it would appear that actual in-the-field monitoring of projected window sectors stands a much greater chance of uncovering valuable data than do most other approaches to UFOs and Fortean phenomena. And while it may be true that "we can't bring UFOs into the laboratory," it may be equally true that we can take the laboratory to the UFOs.

NOTES

[1]The best introduction to phenomenalism and phenomenal reality is to be found in: **Phenomena: A Book of Wonders** by John Michell & Robert J. M. Rickard (New York: Pantheon, 1977).

[2]F. Lagarde: "UFOs and Fault Lines," **Flying Saucer Review**, Vol. 14, No. 4.

[3]Vestigia, R.D. 2 Brookwood Road, Stanhope, N.J. 07874

[4]A copy of the M-1000 Owner's Manual as well as information on price and availability, may be obtained for $1 through MAR.

YOU ARE INVITED TO RECEIVE THE REPORT ON CURRENT RESEARCH

MAR, a not-for-profit research foundation, seeks to employ new and innovative approaches to UFOs and other unusual phenomena. We believe in creative science, and science that investigates all reported phenomena, whether generally accepted or not. MAR receives absolutely no outside funding at the present time, and your help is needed.

Individuals able to donate services or equipment receive the REPORT ON CURRENT RESEARCH, as well as all other MAR publications, without cost in return for their gracious support.

Other interested individuals and agencies may receive the report at the rate of $5 for 4 issues.

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